



Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

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Co-Chairs: Rep. Mike Demicco, Sharon Langer & Beresford Wilson

Meeting Summary: December 14, 2016

1E LOB

Note Change: Next Meeting is February 15, 2017 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB

Attendees: Representative Mike Demicco (Co-Chair), Sharon Langer (Co-Chair), Beresford Wilson (Co-Chair), Karen Andersson (DCF), David Borzellino, Rick Calvert, Terri DiPietro, Dr. Frank Fortunati, Jr., Heather Gates, Dr. Steven Girelli, William Halsey (DSS), Peggy Hardy, Colleen Harrington (DMHAS), Dr. Chuck Herrick, Jill Holmes-Brown, Susan Kelley, Mickey Kramer, Judith Meyers, Marie Mormile-Mehler, Dr. Sabooh Mubbashar, Maureen O'Neill-Davis, Kelly Phenix, Pat Rehmer, Galo Rodriguez, Knute Rotto (Beacon), Joseph Sullivan, Janine, Sullivan-Wiley, Deena Tampi, Meryl Tom, Susan Walkama, Alicia Woodsby, and Valerie Wyzykowski (OHA)

BHP OC Administration



BHPOHealthcareCa
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Co-Chair Sharon Langer convened the meeting at 2:04 PM, and members introduced themselves. She welcomed new Council member, Dr. Frank Fortunati, Jr. (Appointed by the Speaker). Sharon then asked for a motion to accept the November meeting summary. A motion was made by Steve Girelli and seconded by Beresford Wilson. All members voted to approve the summary as written.

Sharon then notified Council Members that Hal Gibber officially resigned from the Council due to family obligations. The Executive Committee has placed Beresford Wilson's name in front of the Council for nomination as a replacement Co-Chair. She asked for a motion to accept the nomination, (see Action Item below).

Next, Sharon announced that Knute Rotto of Beacon Health Options was resigning as CEO and taking a job nearer to his home state of Indiana to be closer with his family. She thanked him for his support and work over the last two and a half years and on behalf of the Council, wished him well. Knute then thanked the Council for their dedicated work saying that Connecticut is unique for having such a Council and wished Council Members the best. He also announced that Ann

Phelan will be the interim CEO of Beacon Health Option Connecticut until the conclusion of a nation-wide search for a new CEO.

Sharon informed the Council that the Executive Committee wrote a letter to the Governor's Healthcare Cabinet (see icon above) expressing concerns about the potential negative effects of the proposed cost containment strategies on access to behavioral health services. She also informed the Council that the Executive Committee is having an ongoing discussion about how to focus the Council's work on improving *health equity* and will give an update the Council by the next meeting.

It was with mixed emotions that the Council celebrated and honored Dr. Karen Andersson upon her state service retirement from DCF. Sharon noted that Karen had been on the Council since its conception ten years ago and Karen later clarified that she was on the first Behavioral Health sub-committee when the Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight (known as MAPOC) was first launched back in the 1990s. Karen was presented with a Legislative Citation by Co-Chair Representative Mike Demicco, and a plaque from the Council praising Karen for her dedication and devotion to the children of the state of CT. The citation read:

In Recognition Of:

Your invaluable and thoughtful participation with the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council. Your many contributions to the field of Behavioral Health leaves a legacy of positive systems changes that will stand as a cornerstone for future improvements. We are grateful for your outstanding leadership and commitment to improving outcomes for children and families, and wish you Godspeed in your well-deserved retirement.

Karen in return gave her thanks to the Council and welcomed new members to the Council. She also thanked DCF and Commissioner Katz for her long service and support of her career. She stated that something needed to change twenty years ago. Back then, the only services for children were in-patient and out-patient services. Since then, the quality of care, access to services, the data collected, etc., have improved to help better the lives of children in Connecticut. She said she will miss everyone so much and Sharon said that the Council will miss her too.

Action Items

Rick Calvert made a motion to vote for Beresford Wilson to replace Hal Gibber as Consumer Co-Chair of the BHPOC and was seconded by both Judith Meyers and Kelly Phenix. The vote was taken and it passed unanimously without any abstentions. Beresford immediately took on his role as newly elected Co-Chair.

National Governor's Association Initiative Presentation: Bill Halsey (DSS)



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Bill Halsey (DSS) gave the report on the National Governor's Association initiative on *High Cost/High Need for Medicaid Members*. Bill went over the presentation with reviews of:

- NGA Project Scope and Goal
- Methodology to Identify Target Population
- Intervention strategy
- Evaluation Methodology
- Non-NGA Cohorts of Interest

He said the NGA High Cost/High Need Project is an opportunity for states to access technical assistance in order to impact high cost and high need Medicaid members. The NGA offers technical assistance to states in a variety of areas, including, but not limited to the following:

- Clinical feedback on identification of target population
- Clinical and practical feedback on the degrees of impactability of the target population
- Intervention services and strategies
- Evaluation Methodology

In Connecticut, the NGA Project collaboration will include several state agencies, ASOs, and the NGA Technical Assistance Team:

- OPM
- DSS
- DMHAS
- DCF
- DOC
- CHN- Medical ASO
- Beacon Health Options- Behavioral Health ASO
- NGA- Technical Assistance Team (clinical, evaluation, data)

Bill said there are approximately 85 to 90 people already enrolled in Connecticut. Susan Kelley asked what is the age span of these consumers. Bill replied ages 21 and over. Kelly Phenix said that AA and NA can provide a lot of data on the population and will give Bill that information. Co-Chair Beresford Wilson asked if other indicators such as race and ethnicity have been identified in regards to opioid and marijuana abuses. Bill said that will be a future presentation. Steve Girelli asked if non-quasi control hospitals were the control group. Bill said that there are six major hospitals in the state that will serve as the control group. Pat Rehmer asked about the resources to track this data. Bill said that Beacon Health Options has the funding to do the tracking without extra costs/payments. Galo Rodriguez asked if the total cost of this initiative was to be paid by Medicaid. Bill said that it will be billed as a per member/per month (PMPM) basis for the entire population. Co-Chair Sharon Langer asked Bill to give updates to the Council on this NGA initiative.

Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Agency Reports:

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services –Colleen Harrington

Colleen Harrington reported that the department is using information and data that was collected during the Commissioner's Provider Forums held across the state and reviewing the data and waiting to see the budget information coming from the state to help them determine what changes in the system will result.

Department of Social Services-Bill Halsey

See the NGA presentation above.

Department of Children and Families – Karen Andersson

Dr. Karen Anderson said the NGA initiative lacks attention to children but admitted that even though the cost of the adult system is so extraordinary, she urges advocacy for children in this federal program. Karen also announced that Dr. Lois Berkowitz will be her replacement with DCF.

BHP Consumer Advisory Council Update

Kelly Phenix will work with the BHP Consumer Advisory Council members to develop a small working focus group on engagement. She would also like to have providers give a presentation to a small focus group on what they do. Dr. Karen Andersson said that in addition to Kelly, Susan Walkama is involved in the Council and they are working on initiating a liaison structure and agenda structure for the working groups. She is hoping for easy and frequent communication between the BHP Consumer Advisory Council and the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council.

Committee Reports:

Coordination of Care: - Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Co-Chair, Brenetta Henry, Co-Chair

A pharmacy update on benefits was presented at the last meeting. MAPOC will appoint a new Co-Chair for the consumer access committee which meets jointly with this committee by the end of March. The next meeting will be on January 25, 2017 at 1:00 PM in 1E LOB.

Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy: – Steve Girelli and Jeff

Vanderploeg, Co-Chairs

Co-Chair Steve Girelli said the committee did not meet in November. The next meeting will be on December 21, 2106 at 2:00 PM in the Hartford Conference Room on the third (3rd) floor at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. Karen Andersson will also be honored at that meeting for her career and work dedicated to the children of the State of Connecticut.

Adult Quality, Access & Policy: -Heather Gates, and Pat Rehmer, Co-Chairs

Heather Gates said the next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 3:00 PM at the CCNA Office in Rocky Hill, CT.

Operations: – Susan Walkama and Terri DiPietro, Co-Chairs

Co-Chair Terri DiPietro said the December meeting date was canceled and the next meeting will be held Friday, January 6, 2017 at 2:30 PM in the Hartford Conference Room (third floor) at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT. (Editor's Note: this meeting was Canceled. The next meeting is February 3, 2017 at 2:30 PM at Beacon Health Options.)

New Business/Meeting Announcement/Adjournment

Co-Chair Sharon Langer informed the Council that Congress passed the Cures Act, a landmark Mental Health Reform Bill that CT Senator Chris Murphy introduced and spearheaded through Congress for access to services which provides \$1 Billion nationwide for substance (opioid) abuse programs. This is the most comprehensive mental health systems reform legislation in more than fifty years. Colleen Harrington (DMHAS) stated that Connecticut already has a Funding Opportunity Application (FOA) for federal dollars derived from the Cures Act for statewide substance abuse programs. Sharon then thanked the agencies, guests, and members for their participation in the Council meeting. She announced the next meeting will be on January 11, 2017 at 2:00 PM in 1E LOB. Hearing nothing else, she wished everyone happy holidays and she adjourned the meeting at 3:49 PM.

Note Change of Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB